

The Brethren Evangelist

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POINTS CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD REMEMBER.

1. This paper is the Organ of the churches of The Brethren.
2. The New Testament is the accepted and exclusive authority of Church Government.
3. Faith in Christ and Reformation from Sin, Trifle Immersion, Supper and Communion, Washing Feet, and the Bible as the only rule of Faith and Practice are principles belonging to the name Brethren, and to be received by all churches as essential evidence of fellowship in the Brotherhood served by this paper.
4. Churches are only volunteer societies organized for ecclesiastical purposes; that the membership may systematically aid each other in the divine life and progress, as members of the one universal Ecclesia of Jesus Christ; and as such each church is independent of all other churches and competent to adopt rules and regulations for its own internal management and discipline in harmony with the New Testament.
5. Reports of church trials and censures do not interest the churches, and will not be published, except in cases of flagrant crime against society and the faith, for the protection of the churches in general.
6. The editors do not hold themselves responsible for the views of correspondents, and consider themselves under no special obligation to publish the communications of any one; and do not suppose the earth will stop and the church fall to atoms if you are not heard, and no favoritism is known.
7. Write plainly upon one side of the sheet only, and do not mix matter demanding immediate publication, with essays and comments; make church news brief, keep out personal reflections, state at other denomination, and try to adapt yourself to the convenience of the publishers.

ASHLAND, Ohio, July 17, 1889.

The Statue of Grace.

In the second epistle of Peter the seven graces are enumerated which makes the perfect man in Christ Jesus. The foundation laid by the Apostle is faith, and to this in turn is added virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity.

Faith is the broad and deep foundation of this statue of character to be moulded out of the rough, unsightly character of stone or sin. Faith can be no more than a mere assent of the mind to a theological proposition. But if this is all the one who exercises faith does, he obeys not the gospel and comes far short of doing his duty. The Apostle directs that virtue shall be added thereto.

Virtue, as used by the divine writer, has a meaning differing from the present use of the word. Fortitude expresses more correctly the Apostle's meaning. It means aggressive valor and aggressive loyalty to the gospel of Christ or Christian truth. The character so far seen in this statue is a man with much faith and abounding in religious activity. In other words, faith and fortitude constitute the frame-work of the true man in Christ Jesus. It is the statue in the rough, indicating strength and power. To make it effective it must be clothed with modifying, controlling and beautifying qualities.

St. Paul, before his conversion was an excellent specimen of manhood, strong in faith and fortitude. His zeal was unmeasured, and blind bigotry was the chief quality of character visible. But in his conversion knowledge was added to his fortitude. He possessed a zeal according to knowledge, and his force and Christian activity were directed by the knowledge of God. But he was not perfect yet.

To knowledge temperance is to be added. This temperance does not narrow down to mere abstinence from intoxicants in drinks and gluttony, but an absolute mastery of the whole man, physically, morally and religiously. This broad temperance is requisite and necessary to make the complete Christian man. Paul needed that grace to hold in control his vigorous temperament and powerful character.

But temperance can not be complete unless it is supported and strengthened with patience.

Again, patience needs to be directed by godliness. Patience toward sin would be an ungodly retreat. Therefore patience must be directed by godliness, and exercised only where it will rebound to the glory of God. Brotherly kindness is the next added grace and the statue is completed with charity, the bond of perfectness.

There is too little brotherly kindness in our churches now. This appeals personally to our own hearts. We do not prefer our brethren above the world. Mark you, reader, it is next the highest grace, and therefore becomes next the highest Christian obligation to be kind to the brethren. Its cultivation is needed. The cause of gospel Christianity is greatly hindered by the lack of brotherly kindness. One step in advance in this grace would be felt along every nerve of the church, coldness would flee away and the light of truth would shine out with new brilliancy.

Charity! thou lovely quality and crown of Christian manliness—oh were there more who are crowned with thee. No Christian is complete without thee; without thee all is vain, all is empty, all is useless, all is worthless. Thou art the only key that unlocks the kingdom of God to seekers. Come near us and rest upon thy children, and may the harshness of their natures and the severity of their characters be made mild by the mollifying influence of thy power. Thou sufferest long and art kind, envieth not, vaunteth not thyself, not puffed up, doth not behave unseemly, seeketh not thy own, art not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but in the truth.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Bro. Beer makes some very sensible remarks about a new church paper. It is certainly fully understood that we have no anxiety to publish a paper in the interests of the church. We undertook this task because we felt that no one else was more able to sacrifice for the cause in this way than we. There has now sufficient been said and now let the subject be dismissed. There is nothing in it that will convert sinners, nor profitable for doctrine. Bro. Beer has always shown the spirit of Christ toward us and the paper and the interests of the church. The Lord bless him. In the great sacrifice of comforts and capital we have made to give the church a fairly creditable paper, we should be allowed to have a little peace, and when the paper fails to represent the interests of the church let those who have such interests at heart, pay their money for the property and take peaceable possession. We have been no burden to the church nor tormented it for donations. We have faithfully defended its cherished principles, and therefore from brethren we expect brotherly treatment.

Our experience is unusual this summer in not being allowed to fill the editorial page. Our writers are doing very good service this summer.

The Lord loveth a cheerful giver is a good doctrine to preach and to obey.

The Committee on Program for the Indiana State Conference has arranged an excellent program. It deals with practical questions relating to the work.

Bro. Beer is in favor of not getting too much rest into the Lord's Day. That is a good point and forcibly applies to many.

An excellent address before the College students occupies the Sister's Department this week.

Brethren Cober and Shomber have now struck a peaceable balance, and all is brotherly-love. This is what brethren will do every time. Bro. Cober has positively denied the charges that he intended to join the Baptists as was circulated—all is well that ends well.

The charge is made that the circular circulated at Annual Meeting was written by a Progressive. We honestly thought at the time that there was no one among us who knew sufficient about the German Baptist Church to write such a circular. We are not prepared to prove who did write it, or who did not write it, and therefore we can not conscientiously deny the charge that it was written by a member of the Brethren church. If, even though it was a statement of facts, therefore, it was written by a Progressive, and caused to be circulated by such a one, it is no honor to our Brotherhood, and no credit to us to reproduce it in these columns. We believe in straight dealing all along the line, with friends and rivals.

Shanksville, Pa.

July 11.—We acknowledge through the EVANGELIST the receipt of \$50.00 from the Beaverdam congregation, Ind., for the Johnstown Brethren to be used to the best advantage. Hope all will be satisfied when we use it to repair that much needed church. Will you brethren? Also \$5.00 from West Independence church, Ohio, for the repairing of Johnstown church.

Considerable has been raised in the county recently that will be acknowledged in due time.

And now let me deviate for a moment, and say, that Bro. Christner's article, published several weeks since, as to why he changed his church relationship should by all means be published in tract form, and a hundred thousand copies scattered broadcast over the country. His arguments are brief, concise and conclusive and carry additional weight from the fact that he has been a minister in the Christian church for so long a time.

Whenever our church awakes from her lethargy and realizes that tracts are an essential element in the prosperity of our church, there is a brighter day dawning.

J. L. KIMMEL.

Alpena, Dakota.

According to promise, I will endeavor to pen a few lines for the EVANGELIST. Dear readers, we are a small body of members, having been revived again, by Bro. Nicholson coming to us, starting a meeting with everything to hinder our meetings that could be mentioned. Just like always when the Brethren commences a meeting it stirs all the other churches up, and we had that to contend with, but it only made us stronger in our faith when these trials come. They are only to try our faith in Jesus. Let us all try and bear up under these troubles with Christian love and pray for those who can not quite see the Bible and that alone.

Bro. Nicholson is a man full of the love of Christ. He explained the Bible so perfectly to the Dakota people here, that some could not help but say, I

am willing to do more for my blessed Master, here Lord take me as I am. We all drove to the river, about 12 miles from here, and Bro. Nicholson administered baptism unto five precious souls and did it according to the Bible in full. They all went down into the water so happy, feeling they were doing the will of their Father in heaven. Our brother went into the water with a smile and talking of Jesus, coming in the same manner. It made our hearts rejoice to see him. They all are good, noble brethren and sisters. We baptized one brother on Wednesday and on Thursday placed him as a deacon. The good brother is just in the right place, for he is full of the Holy Ghost. We placed with him in the same office our dear brother, Winters, a man full of the spirit of Christ at all times. They will work together for the cause of Christ. Bro. Nicholson organized this little body of fifteen members, where less than one year ago there were but three of us. We are holding the fort here. My prayer is that the Lord will bless our old brother in all good works.

The brother did explain some things in the Bible in which I never heard. He talked one night on the Seven seals. It was grand to have the Bible taught us so plainly. One night the brother spoke from this text: Five lines, and I wondered what he would say on that subject, but he made it very plain to us. I wish him grand success while at Kimball, Dakota, and hope many souls may be brought to Christ while he remains with the Brethren there.

We intend starting a prayer meeting Wednesday evening. The weather has been very dry. We need rain and oh we pray that the good Lord will send us a good rain.

I think the brethren in some parts are doing just right in communing every three months. I hope we can have the same enjoyment soon. With these few remarks I will close. Pray for us brothers and sisters that we may ever be found doing something for Jesus.

MINNIE E. BRENNAMAN.

Report of Bro. Rittgers' Canvass.

Bro. Rittgers requests us to publish this report of his canvass:

North Liberty,	\$34.10
Ankneytown,	34.48
Bear Creek,	28.23
Miamisburg,	12.00
Farmersville,	38.50
Winchester,	25.85
West Alexandria,	11.25
Pleasant Hill,	8.16
Covington,	8.85
Rossville, Ind.,	7.27
Mt. Pleasant,	22.26
Edna Mills,	11.47
Flora,	7.45
Salem,	17.35
Brethren Pub. House,	10.00
Total,	\$277.27
My expenses,	45.10
Remaining,	\$232.17
Glenford unpaid,	\$18.50

The above has all been collected except the amount pledged by Glenford. My wife is sick in bed. Was called from Flora, Ind., on account of her affliction. Do not know if I shall be able to continue any further or not. Am almost worn out myself.

The treasurer of Johnstown church is L. J. Ripple, he is the

person to whom to send the money.

J. B. RITTGERS.

Programme for the Ind. State Conference of the Brethren Church, to be held at Elkhart City, Ind., Sep. 25, 26, 27, 1889.

- 1st Session, 10 A. M., Sep. 25th.
 1. Devotional Exercises.
 2. Address of Welcome, 10 min.
 3. Response, B. L. Gordon, 10 min.
 4. Music.
 5. Election of Secretary and Reading Clerk.
 6. Roll call of Delegates.
 7. Appointment of General Committee.
 8. Announcements.
 9. Music.
 10. Adjournment.
 - 2nd Session, 1.30 P. M., Sep. 25th.
 1. Devotional Exercises.
 2. General Church Work.
 - a. The rights and privileges of a State Conference.
 - L. W. Ditch, 20 min.
 - Geo. W. DeBolt, 20 min.
 - b. What constitutes a complete local organization of the church according to the gospel.
 - J. H. Swihart, 20 min.
 - S. H. Bashor, 20 min.
 - 3rd and 4th Sessions 9.30, Sep. 26th.
 1. Devotional Exercises.
 2. The formation of a Question Box.
 3. How should Elders be chosen?
 - How and by whom ordained?
 - What duties should they perform according to the gospel?
 - W. W. Summers, 20 min.
 - W. C. Perry, 20 min.
 4. How should ministers be chosen; how installed; what duties should they perform, according to the gospel.
 - J. M. Rittgers, 20 min.
 - A. A. Cober, 20 min.
 5. How should deacons be chosen; how installed; what duties should they perform, according to the gospel?
 - Noah Heeter, 20 min.
 - D. K. Teeter, 20 min.
 - c. Mission Work.
 1. Report of Sec. of M. B.
 2. " " Treas. of M. B.
 3. " " Evangelist.
 - 5th and 6th Session, 9.30 A. M., Sep. 27.
 1. Devotional Exercises.
 2. Mission Work continued.
 1. Election of M. B.
 2. " " Officers of M. B.
 3. " " Evangelist.
 3. The Mission Work of the church.
 - B. L. Gordon, 20 min.
 - R. K. Binkly, 20 min.
 4. Miscellaneous Work.
 6. Sunday School Work.
 1. The S. S. work of the church.
 - Perry Early, 20 min.
 - Albert Osborne, 20 min.
 2. How to promote an interest in the S. S.
 - H. Helen Frame.
 - J. H. Palmer.
 3. The Qualifications of the S. S. teacher.
 - Mrs. A. A. Cober.
 - LaFerry Hale.
 4. The Qualifications of the S. S. Superintendent.
 - J. M. Fox.
 - Adam Massena.
 5. The S. S. C. E.
 - Bessie Perry.
 6. Temperance.
 1. Temperance reform and the church member.
 - L. W. Ditch.
 - W. C. Perry.
 7. Query Box.
 8. Election of Officers for next conference.
 9. Miscellaneous.
 10. Adjournment.
- The above programme by our committee makes no provision for evening sessions during the conference. The committee thought it best to have the evening sessions open to the wishes of the conference. If a sermon, or lecture, or children's service, or some special line of business, would be desired, it would be in order.
- We now have the programme before us, that is only one step toward a successful conference. Now, only a united effort by minister and laity in the state through the grace of God, can make a complete and final success.
- W. C. PERRY.
- Hirovito, Russian minister at Bucharest, has been instructed to demand an explanation from the Roumanian Government concerning the expulsion of Russian from Roumania and the general Anti-Russian procedure of the Roumanian Cabinet.